

CLAIMS LISTING

Please amend the claims as follows:

1.-14. (cancelled)

15. (currently amended): A liquid crystal display device, comprising:

an alignment layer comprising constituent materials, the constituent materials having a stoichiometric ratio ~~adjusted by an amount of material, the amount determined~~ to provide a given pretilt angle; and

liquid crystal material in contact with the alignment layer.

16. (currently amended): The device as recited in claim 15, wherein the alignment layer material includes SiC_x wherein x ~~is adjusted to~~ provides the stoichiometric relationship.

17. (currently amended): The device as recited in claim 15, wherein the alignment layer material includes silicon oxynitride.

18. (currently amended): The device as recited in claim 15, wherein the alignment layer material includes a constituent material having Pi-electrons.

19. (previously presented): The device as recited in claim 15, wherein the alignment layer includes a tilted homeotropic alignment layer.

20. (cancelled)

21. (currently amended): A liquid crystal display device, comprising:
an alignment layer comprising constituent materials, the alignment layer having a preexisting pretilt angle;
an amount of at least one of the constituent materials for ~~providing~~adjusting a stoichiometric ratio of the constituent materials of the alignment layer, wherein the amount is ~~determined to provide~~ a given pretilt angle of the alignment layer different than the preexisting pretilt angle of the alignment layer; and
liquid crystal material in contact with the alignment layer.

22. (currently amended): The liquid crystal display device of claim 15, further comprising ions directed at the alignment layer to provide uniformity of the pretilt angle.

23. (currently amended): The liquid crystal display device of claim 21, further comprising ions directed at the alignment layer to provide uniformity of the pretilt angle.

24. (currently amended): A liquid crystal display device, comprising:
an alignment layer comprising a first material which provides a homeotropic alignment~~[[;]]~~ and a second material ~~introduced in an amount determined to provide~~ a given pretilt angle to the alignment layer, the second material providing a more homogeneous alignment than the first material; and
liquid crystal material in contact with the alignment layer,

wherein the first and second materials are selected from a group comprising Si, O, N, C, SiO_x , Si_xN_y , SiC_x , amorphous silicon (a-Si), and amorphous carbon (a-C:H or diamond-like-carbon (DLC)).

25. (previously presented): The liquid crystal display device of claim 23, further comprising ions directed at the alignment layer to control the uniformity of the pretilt angle.